

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05257 060919Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 W

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R 060805Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4351

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 5257

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, YO (REISINI, NICKOLAS)

SUBJECT: ROBIN INTERNATIONAL AND THE YUGOSLAV AGRICULTURAL BANK

REF : (A) STATE 229186, B(B) BELGRADE 5615 (1971)

(C) BELGRADE 5538 (1972), (D) BELGRADE 5883 (1972)

1. EMBASSY FILES RELATED TO THE INCIDENT CONTAIN ONLY REFTELS C AND D, AS REFTEL B HAS BEEN RETIRED. WE CAN CONFIRM THAT THE YUGOSLAV AGRICULTURAL BANK LOST \$1.8 MILLION IN A LOAN TRANSACTION INVOLVING ROBIN INTERNATIONAL, THE FRENCH BANQUE DE L'INDOCHINE AND EX-INVEST OF DUSSELDORF. THE INCIDENT WAS GIVEN VERY WIDE PUBLICITY HERE AND AT LEAST TWO DIRECTORS OF THE YUGOSLAV BANK WERE SENTENCED TO LONG TERMS IN JAIL FOR THEIR PART IN THE EPISODE.

2. WHILE THE EMBASSY HAS NO OTHER DOCUMENTS OR CLIPPINGS ON THE INCIDENT, A PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE OF THE COMMERCIAL SECTION REMEMBERS THE PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN THE CASE. HE RECALLS THAT ROBIN INTERNATIONAL ACTED AS A BROKER IN A TRANSACTION OF A LARGE SUM OF MONEY FROM THE BANQUE OF INDOCHINA AND THAT FOR UNKNOWN REASONS THE TRANSACTION WAS NOT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED, BUT THE BROKERAGE FEE OF AT LEAST \$1 MILLION WAS KEPT BY ROBIN INTERNATIONAL. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER ROBIN INTERNATIONAL ACTED ETHICALLY. IT IS CERTAIN (ACCORDING TO THE EMPLOYEE) THAT THERE WAS WIDESPREAD FEELING WITHIN YUGOSLAVIA THAT THE MONEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN RETURNED. WE STRESS THAT THE ABOVE ACCOUNT HAS NOT BEEN VERIFIED BY THE EMBASSY.

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3. THERE IS NO RECORD OF NICKOLAS REISINI IN THE EMBASSY RECORDS.

TO DETERMINE HIS CURRENT LEGAL STATUS IN YUGOSLAVIA WOULD REQUIRE
A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT. IN VIEW OF THE
PUBLICITY GIVEN THIS CASE, AUTHORITIES WOULD BE KEENLY INTERESTED
IN THE REASON FOR OUR REQUEST. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN AS TO WHETHER
WE WOULD RECEIVE AN EARLY OR FORTHCOMING REPLY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD DETERMIN WHETHER
THE TEXT OF THIS CABLE AND THE REFERENCED CABLES ARE TO BE
DISCLOSED TO MR. SCOTT. ALSO REQUEST COPY OF REFTEL (B) BE
REPEATED TO POST.
SILBERMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA05257
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750346-0012
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751080/aaaactcc.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 229186
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROBIN INTERNATIONAL AND THE YUGOSLAV AGRICULTURAL BANK
TAGS: BBAK, YO, (REISINI, NICKOLAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006